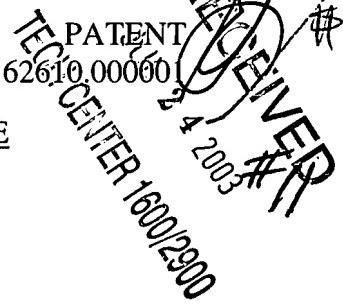




Attorney Docket No.: 62610.00000



In re Application of: )  
R. KATSARAVA *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: 1615  
Application Number: 09/757,704 ) Examiner: Isis Ghali  
Filed: January 11, 2001 )  
For: POLYMER BLENDS AS )  
BIODEGRADABLE MATRICES )  
FOR PREPARING )  
BIOCOMPOSITES )

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is submitted in response to the Office Action of January 27, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for responding to the Office Action mailed on January 27, 2003, in the above-captioned patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the time for response be extended up to and including July 27, 2003. Enclosed is a check for the fee for Extension of Time in the amount of \$460.00 (small entity fee). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Please consider the following remarks.

**REMARKS**

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102**

In the Office Action, claims 1-3,6,7 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Saotome *et al.*, Chemistry Letters, pp 21-24, (1991) (Office Action, pages 2-3). The Examiner asserted that Saotome *et al.* disclosed polymers that allegedly

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